

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00309 270541Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 INT-05 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 ST-01
EB-08 /070 W
-----270549Z 061217 /14

O R 270418Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2633
GOVERNOR BARNETT/PAGO PAGO/AMERICAN SAMOA IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
MAC SCOTT AFB ILLINOIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0309

ZFF-1 PAGO PAGO/AMERICAN SAMOA ONLY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD, JCS FOR J-4, MAC FOR DOOM/TRR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, WS
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAMOAN REQUEST FOR LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE:
VISIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

REF: (A) STATE 16335 (DTG 251801Z JAN 77) NOTAL
(B) STAE 15915 (DTG 250022Z JAN 77) NOTAL
(C) WELLINGTON 0265 (DTG 232250Z JAN 77) NOTAL

1. FOLLOWING PRIORITY TELEGRAM RECEIVED JANUARY 27 FROM TOMA,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA.
QUOTE FOR AMBASSADOR SELDEN FROM TOMA. WE HAVE NOTHING AT ALL
IN APIA THAT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR QUEEN'S VISIT. ACCORDINGLY,
MINISTER ASI EIKENI WAS ASSIGNED TO ACQUIRE TWO SUITABLE SECOND-
HAND VEHICLES IN HONOLULU. WE HAD HOPED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE
INCONVENIENT TO TRANSPORT VEHICLES BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON
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ROUTINE FLIGHTS TO PAGO PAGO THUS KEEPING DOWN THE TOTAL
ACQUISITION COST OF THESE VEHICLES. MINISTER ASI HAS NOW
JUST RETURNED AND HAS REPORTED THAT HE HAS FOUND TWO SUITABLE
VEHICLES READY TO BE TRANSPORTED TO SAMOA. YOU WILL APPRECIATE
THAT SPECIAL ACQUISITIONS OF THIS TYPE FREQUENTLY INVITE
COMMENT. THE PURCHASE PRICE IS OKAY AND WHILE TRANSPORTATION
COSTS ARE ALSO QUITE REASONABLE THEY DO MAKE THE WHOLE

THING MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CRITICISM. RECENT INCIDENTS GENERATED SOME PUBLIC COMMENT LOCALLY THAT HAVE A BEARING ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UK AND WE ARE ANXIOUS NOT TO ATTRACT FRESH REACTION. GOVERNMENT WANTED TO AVOID THESE DISTRACTIONS RATHER THAN THE COST ITSELF HENCE OUR REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSPORTATION FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. SHOULD SUCH ASSISTANCE NOT BE POSSIBLE WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PROCEED AND TO REIMBURSE THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FOR EXPENSE OF HONOLULU-PAGO PAGO AIRLIFT. PLEASE REGARD THIS CABLE AS OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF WESTERN SAMOA GOVERNMENTS AGREEMENT TO MEET THESE COSTS. GRATEFUL ALSO IF YOU WOULD ASSIST IN ARRANGING AIRLIFT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNQUOTE.

2. REFTEL A DID NOT REACH MINISTER ASI PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM HONOLULU. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE TODAY REPEATED THAT TEXT VIA IMMEDIATE COMMERCIAL CABLE TO TOMA AND ASI, IT IS EVIDENT REQUEST CONTAINED PARA 1 MADE WITHOUT BENEFIT OF INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL.

3. WHILE GOWS DELAY UNTIL LAST MOMENT ELICITS LITTLE SYMPATHY IN THIS QUARTER, IT IS APPARENT THEY ARE IN DILEMMA AND WITHOUT REPRESENTATIVE IN HONOLULU TO FACILITATE WHATEVER MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES MAY STILL BE ARRANGED. I HOPE CINCPAC REMAINS WILLING, THEREFORE, TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE WHATEVER FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IS POSSIBLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. FOR DEPARTMENT AND CINCPAC: (A) WHAT ALTERNATIVES, IF ANY, EXIST FOR SURFACE SHIPMENT (COMMERCIAL OR USG) BEFORE QUEEN'S VISIT TO WESTERN SAMOA FEBRUARY 10? CONFIDENTIAL

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(B) DOES SIZE OF VEHICLES COMPLETELY FORECLOSE SCHEDULED OR CHARTER COMMERCIAL AIRLIFT? (C) IF NOT, AT WHAT COST TO GOWS FOR ONE? FOR TWO VEHICLES? (D) DOES GOWS OFFER TO PAY FULL COSTS OF SHIPMENT IN ANY WAY ALTER DEPARTMENT'S ADVISE IT WOULD NOT REQUEST MAC AIRLIFT (REFTEL B)?

FOR GOVERNOR BARNETT: IS IT POSSIBLE THERE MAY BE ON AMERICAN SAMOA TWO VEHICLES WHICH COULD BE MADE SUITABLE FOR GOWS USE DURING QUEEN'S VISIT, EITHER FOR PURCHASE OR SHORT-TERM LEASE? REFTELS BEING REPEATED SEPARATELY. SELDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AUTOMOBILES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WELLIN00309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770029-0298
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770110/aaaaaizs.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32a9b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 16335
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3478547
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN SAMOAN REQUEST FOR LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE: VISIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, WS
To: STATE GOVERNOR BARNETT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32a9b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009